

December 11, 2012

Dear Scoping Committee,

I have made Seattle my home since 1990, enjoying local beaches, swimming in the Sound, and eating the local seafood. What would be the number of invasive species, radioactive particles from coal ash, and pollutants traveling to Northwest American waters from bilge waters from China on the returning coal tankers? What is the estimated number of species washing into Puget Sound? What would be the cumulative impact on Northwest sea life and impact on the fishing industry?

This could:

a) Potentially change the ecosystem of local waters and edge out or kill large ecosystems. It is important to thoroughly study radioactivity and foreign species a tanker of Chinese bilge water has, multiplied by the expected 430 tankers a year. How does each species impact lower sealife such as eelgrass which feeds herring, our shellfish, and larger mammals including Orcas? How many of these invasive species does it take to start impacting each of these?

As the Coal industry has estimated 430 tankers a year would be traveling through Puget Sound, they must return as well. Bilge water must be dumped, and it must be dumped close to land, even if it is outside of Puget Sound. We have had waste from Japan's tsunami wash up in Puget Sound ("Large black floats. . .traveled 4,500 miles on Pacific Ocean currents. . .to reach the beaches of Neah Bay in far northwestern Washington state 280 days after the Japanese disaster."by Michael Zennie -Mail Online), so water waste travels. According to Dana Christensen, an associate lab director for energy and engineering at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and a 1978 paper in *Science* authored by J.P. McBride (Research quoted in a December 2007 Scientific American article), fly ash emitted by a power plant—a **by-product from burning coal for electricity—carries into the surrounding environment 100 times more radiation than a nuclear power plant** producing the same amount of energy, which is a **concern because coal contains uranium and thorium, which are not only radioactive but highly toxic** as well. 100 times the "permissible" radioactivity releases from nuclear plants is not trivial. This will inevitably fall into the ocean.

We all share the ocean waters. Is there a special sewage station that could be built in which bilge water could be purified? Could that station have a way of sequestering invasive species? How much and what kind of pollutants could it sequester? Is there a place the pollutants could safely go? Is it possible to deal with that many tankers waste? Is it possible to mitigate the sheer amount of diesel pollutants from the tankers themselves? Is there an alternative to running the tankers on diesel fuel?

I am concerned that this question be thoroughly scoped to make sure coal tanker bilge waters are not destroying local ecosystems, sea life, and the fishing industry.

Thank you for your thorough consideration,
Janet Rayor